Expertise in Gorilla Warfare from Vietnam

†2766. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSFAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India have submitted a proposal to Vietnam to achieve experiste in Gorilla warfare in order to combat separatist movements in North-East States, Kashmir and Naxalite areas;

(b)if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction thereto of Vietnam Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) During my recent visit to Vietnam from March 26-30, 2000, I held official talks with my Vietnamese counterpart on bilateral relations in the field of defence. During these talks it was agreed that Vietnam would be willing to consider the possibility of admitting Indian Armed Forces personnel for training in Vietnam in the field of jungle warfare.

Regiment of Ladakh Scouts

2767. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ladakh Scouts of Indian Army has been in the forefront of all the wars, including the just concluded victorious Operation Vijay;

(b)whether it is also a fact that demand for converting the Ladakh Scouts into a fijll fledged Regiment has been coming from various quarters and the case is lying with his Ministry;

(c) whether Government don't think that the case is genuine and just; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto? -

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) ; (a) Yes, Sir The Ladakh Scouts have participated in various operation including Operation Vijay.

(b) to (d) The case for restructuring of Ladakh Scouts on the lines of a fiill-fledged Regiment is under Government's consideration.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.